

Thomas Tidwell, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service
Attn: EMC - Administrative Reviews
1400 Independence Ave. SW, Mailstop 1104
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Sir,

As a Wyoming resident, I am writing to address some serious concerns I have about the revised Shoshone National Forest Management Plan. In essence, I strongly object to the increased use of motorized vehicles and the timber harvest proposed in the plan.

Objection: Increased area available for motorized use near Dubois

- The plan changes about 40,000 acres in the Horse Creek, Wiggins Fork, Bear Creek, and East Fork drainages from backcountry non-motorized to summer and winter motorize.
- These 40,000 acres include elk calving grounds, secure grizzly bear habitat, critical lynx habitat, and crucial winter range for bighorn sheep.

Resolution: Keep area in Horse Creek, Wiggins Fork, Bear Creek and East Fork drainages as year round non-motorized back country recreation.

Objection: Lean-to Creek designated for timber harvest

- About 50 acres of forest in the Lean-to Creek drainage (flowing into the East Fork of the Wind River) is being changed from back-country non-motorized to a managed timber lands designation.
- There has not been any motorized use of this area for over 60 years. Right next to the Washakie Wilderness, the area's value as secure bear habitat is obvious by abundant bear sign everywhere.

Resolution: Keep Lean-to Creek as year round non-motorized back country recreation.

Objection: New motorized allocations in Wood River and Frances Peak

- In spite of outstanding wilderness characteristics by the Forest Service's own analysis, large parts of these two areas have been opened to winter motorized use.

- In spite of numerous assurances from Supervisor Alexander that these areas will continue to be managed to preserve their wilderness character, we will now have snowmobiles to disrupt wildlife and destroy any possibility for peaceful quiet solitary winter experience in these areas.
- Approximately 22,000 of the total 23,000 public comments requested that these areas be recommended for wilderness designation. Ninety six percent of people who care enough about the management of this forest to write a comment do not approve of expanded vehicle use in these areas at any time of the year.

Resolution: Keep all of Wood River and Francs Peak as year round non-motorized back country recreation.

Objection: Mountain biking in Dunoir Special Management Unit

- The Forest Service wants to allow a mountain bike trail in the Dunoir SMU. When Congress created the Dunoir SMU, the legislation stated that the area was for non-vehicular recreation. It did not say non-motorized. Mountain bicycles are vehicles, are illegal in the Dunoir, and must be prohibited.
- About 96% (22,000 of 23,000) comment letters from the public requested that the Forest Service recommend that the Dunoir SMU be recommended for wilderness. The public does not support mechanized uses in the Dunoir.

Resolution: Do not allow mountain biking in the Dunoir Special Management Unit.

Protect our forests for future generations! Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration.

Marya Grathwohl

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